

Elizabeth Porter Gould,

P. 30.727

The Ramabai Association.

Report of Annual Meeting held

March 11, 1892.

REPORT

OF

ANNUAL MEETING

OF

THE RAMABAI ASSOCIATION

HELD MARCH 11, 1892.

BOSTON

PRESS OF GEO. H. ELLIS, 141 FRANKLIN STREET

1892

OFFICERS FOR 1892.

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Recording Secretary.

MRS. ELLIOTT RUSSELL, 407 Marlboro Street, Boston, Mass.

Corresponding Secretary.

MISS A. P. GRANGER, Canandaigua, N.Y.

Principal of Sharada Sadana.

PUNDITA RAMABAI DONGRE MEDHAVI.

THE RAMABAI ASSOCIATION.

THE Fourth Annual Meeting of the Ramabai Association was held in Boston at the Young Men's Christian Association, March 11, 1892, at 3 P.M.

The President, Rev. E. E. Hale, opened the meeting with prayer.

The Recording Secretary, Mrs. Russell, read the minutes of the last meeting, which were accepted. She then read the report of Miss Granger, the Corresponding Secretary, which follows in full.

REPORT OF THE CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.

In giving this account of the work of the fifty-nine circles auxiliary to the Ramabai Association, I am very glad to report a fulfilment of pledges among the majority, and even an increasing interest in some. I am, however, forced to admit that this gain does not counterbalance the decline in a few. The California Branch, which has given so generously to the work in the past, has this year made no payment whatever; and though an effort is being made to revive interest there, and a few of the circles have responded very cordially, still we dare not hope for complete success. Perhaps this decline should not surprise us, as many of the circles were in schools, and as, at the best, the population there is a constantly changing one. Still, the fact is none the less to be deplored.

As an offset to this, I will tell of the generosity of the Manorama Circle of Philadelphia, who, in addition to their

large annual pledge, have raised this winter \$60 for the purchase of kindergarten materials, technically known as "gifts," sufficient for thirty pupils. These are now on their way to Ramabai, for use in her kindergarten training class for teachers; and it is good to picture her delight over this cordial response to her appeal made in the late summer. It will be particularly welcome as coming from the city where she herself studied the kindergarten system, feeling even then convinced of its value to her people.

The sum collected by Mrs. George N. Dana from Ramabai Clusters, Circles of King's Daughters, Mission Circles, Sunday-school scholars, and individuals interested in the Shâradâ Sadana, is also larger this year than before, amounting to \$323. This sum will be devoted to furniture for the kindergarten department and to similar wants in other departments of the new home. The Virginia Branch also reports unabated interest; and their annual pledge of \$200 is made good, though possibly not received by the Treasurer in time to be included in his report.

As the fiscal years of the Association and the circles now correspond, the receipts from the circles will be found in the Treasurer's report. From contributions in past years Ramabai has the right to expect from these fifty-nine circles about \$4,600 annually for the support of the Shâradâ Sadana. This, with the pledges from the California Branch and other sources, and the six scholarships from friends, would have supplied the \$6,000 required yearly. This year the annual payments from our circles fall short of this \$4,600. With the California Branch declining, the necessity for greater effort here is very apparent; and this necessity becomes imperative when we consider that the Shâradâ Sadana is no longer an experiment, with but a few pupils to support. It is now a recognized educational institution, occupying a home of its own, with forty-three scholars, more than two-thirds of whom are wholly dependent upon us. Can we, who by our promised support encouraged Ramabai to assume this great responsibility, now allow the work to fail of its noble mission

through lack of money? To all whom this may reach I put the question. Many will, I know, be faithful to their obligations to the end; but to keep the work, even at its present stage of efficiency, interest must be rekindled in the lukewarm and many new friends secured.

A. P. GRANGER,
Corresponding Secretary.

CANANDAIGUA, N.Y., March 3, 1892.

TREASURER'S REPORT

For Year ending Feb. 29, 1892.

RECEIPTS.

Annual subscriptions (including life membership fees) :—		
Circles,	\$3,805.49	
Individuals,	146 87	\$3,952.36
Scholarships :—		
Circles,	\$700.00	
Individuals,	600.00	1,300.00
Contributions to General Fund :—		
Circles,	\$173.55	
Individuals,	255.25	428.80
Contributions to Building Fund :—		
Circles,		227.61
Interest on current accounts		414.40
Income (scholarships),		184.28
Total receipts,		<u>\$6,507.45</u>

EXPENDITURES.

Salaries,	\$3,260.60	
Remittances for school expenses,	2,000.00	
Expenses of annual meeting, March 11, 1891,	143.25	
Cable messages to Poona,	86.71	
Stationery, postage, printing, etc.,	72.18	
Magazines for school,	4.96	
Rent of Safe Deposit Box (one year).	10.00	
Total current expenses,		\$5,577.70
School property in Poona		12,002.54
Total expenditures,		<u>\$17,580.24</u>

GENERAL STATEMENT, MARCH, 1892.

Building Fund,	\$3,243.73	Life member-	
Savings-banks, \$6,125.28		ships (last 6	
Bay State		years), . .	\$2,041.00
Trust Co., <u>11,392.13</u>		General Fund,	12,594.86
Balance (cash),	17,517.41	Scholarships, .	\$5,900.00
	<u>\$20,761.14</u>	Income, . .	225.28 6,125.28
			<u>\$20,761.14</u>

Total cash on hand March 1, 1891,	\$28,590.20
March 1, 1892,	17,517.41
Decrease,	<u>\$11,072.79</u>

Total Receipts of the Association to March 1, 1892:—

Circles,	\$35,798.17	
Individuals,	14,649.21	
Interest,	<u>2,068.62</u>	\$52,516.00
Total Expenditures,		<u>34,998.59</u>
Balance,		<u>\$17,517.41</u>

CONTRIBUTIONS OF RAMABAI CIRCLES.

CIRCLES.	FOURTH YEAR.				TOTAL FOR FOUR YEARS.
	Annual Sub., including Life Memb. Fees.	General Fund.	Building Fund.	Scholarships.	
Baltimore,	\$100.00	.....	.....	.....	\$450.00
Brooklyn,	200.00	\$60.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	2,195.00
Boston (Mrs. Dana's),	323.00	.....	.....	.....	804.00
Bryn Mawr College,	35.00	.....	.....	.....	256.50
Canandaigua, . . . . .	.....	.....	.....	100.00	579.00
Canandaigua, Granger Place School,	52.35	.....	.....	.....	293.85
California Association, . . . . .	.....	.....	.....	.....	6,250.00
Central City, Neb.,	17.00	.....	.....	.....	86.00
Cheltenham Hills,	27.00	.....	.....	.....	97.00
Chicago,	128.00	.....	.....	.....	1,402.73
Cleveland,	17.00	.....	.....	.....	58.85
Concord, N.H.,	50.00	.....	.....	.....	203.00
Concordville, Pa.,	33.00	.....	4.00	.....	144.50
Cohasset,	10.00	.....	.....	.....	30.00
Evanston, Ill.,	5.00	.....	.....	.....	10.00
Franklin,	20.00	1.00	.....	.....	66.25
Fremont, Neb.,	24.00	.....	.....	.....	101.00
Geneva, N.Y.,	30.00	.....	.....	.....	238.75
Germantown, First,	126.00	17.00	.....	.....	841.60
Germantown, Second, . . . . .	.....	.....	.....	.....	315.00
Gilbertsville, N.Y.,	73.00	.....	.....	.....	358.00
Hartford,	55.00	.....	.....	.....	1,372.75
Ithaca, Cornell University,	240.85	.....	.....	.....	1,289.22
Indianapolis,	96.00	.....	.....	.....	358.00
Indianapolis, Girls' Classical School, . . . . .	.....	.....	.....	100.00	400.00
Jacksonville, Ill.,	45.00	.....	.....	.....	284.75
Jamestown, N.Y., . . . . .	.....	1.00	.....	.....	1.00
Kansas City,	19.00	.....	.....	.....	80.95
Lansing Circle, . . . . .	.....	.....	.....	.....	45.16
Leroy,	40.00	.....	.....	.....	204.22
London, Ont.,	52.00	.....	.....	.....	281.41
Louisville,	63.00	16.00	.....	.....	284.55
Los Angeles, . . . . .	.....	.....	.....	.....	65.40
Luverne, . . . . .	.....	.....	.....	.....	13.00
Montclair,	42.00	7.00	10.00	.....	369.00
Montreal,	109.00	.....	6.00	100.00	1,039.76

CONTRIBUTIONS OF RAMABAI CIRCLES.— *Continued.*

CIRCLES.	FOURTH YEAR.				TOTAL FOR FOUR YEARS.
	Annual Sub., including Life Memb. Fees.	General Fund.	Building Fund.	Scholarships.	
Naperville, . . . . .	.....	.....	.....	.....	\$1 00
New Haven,	\$89.00	.....	.....	.....	1,232.85
New Hope, Pa.,	9.00	.....	.....	.....	54.00
New York,	82.00	\$6.00	\$1.00	\$100.00	1,263.43
New York, Miss Merrill's, .	16.00	.....	.....	.....	69.00
Niagara Falls,	32.00	.....	.....	.....	127.00
Northampton, Smith College,	96.45	.....	.....	.....	973.75
Normal, Ill.,	50.00	.....	.....	.....	107.90
Nyack,	49.50	.....	.....	.....	330.00
Oswego,	50.00	.....	.....	.....	237.00
Orange, . . . . .	.....	.....	.....	.....	211.25
Ogontz, Pa., Ogontz School,	161.59	.....	.....	.....	161.59
Pawtucket,	65.00	10.00	.....	.....	522.20
Philadelphia,	82.00	9.00	.....	.....	895.50
" Josee, . . . . .	.....	.....	.....	.....	75.00
" Manorama,	162.00	38.00	.....	.....	1,582.56
" Sahaya,	67.50	.50	.....	.....	523.50
Pine Bush, N.Y.,	11.00	.....	.....	.....	44.00
Plainfield, N.J.,	56.00	.....	.....	.....	351.09
Plainville, Conn.,	11.00	.....	.....	.....	47.55
Providence,	91.00	1.00	.....	.....	441.30
Quincy, Ill.,	82.00	.....	.....	.....	580.00
Roselle, N.J.,	16.00	2.25	.....	.....	93.25
Saco, Me., . . . . .	.....	.....	.....	.....	74.67
Sherwood, N.Y., . . . . .	.....	4.80	.....	100.00	704.45
Sioux City, . . . . .	.....	.....	.....	.....	215.70
Sparkill, N.Y.,	73.00	.....	.....	.....	476.00
Springfield, Mass.,	76.00	.....	.....	.....	408.00
Stamford,	167.25	.....	.....	.....	553.75
St. Louis, . . . . .	.....	.....	.....	.....	102.00
Toledo,	16.00	.....	.....	.....	61.00
Toronto, . . . . .	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,091.82
Vineland, . . . . .	.....	.....	.....	.....	10.00
Virginia Association, . . . . .	.....	.....	.....	.....	350.00
Washington,	100.00	.....	.....	.....	613.50
Wilmington, Del.,	62.00	.....	6.61	.....	342.36
	\$3,805.49	\$173.55	\$227.61	\$700.00	\$35,798.17

E. HAYWARD FERRY,
Treasurer Ramabai Association.

Shâradâ Sadana -

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

To the Officers and Members of the Ramabai Association :

The last report of the Executive Committee contained an account of the removal of the Shâradâ Sadana from Bombay to Poona, with a graphic description of its home and occupants by Miss Hamlin.

Miss Hamlin, having accomplished the purpose for which she was sent to India, left Poona in March last, and arrived here the latter part of May. It was then too late to call a public meeting for hearing an account of her work in the school and among the people. But to the Trustees and Executive Committee she repeated her enthusiastic praise of Ramabai and her work, emphasized the past success and future possibilities of the school, at the same time pointing out the dangers into which it might fall.

It is to be regretted that ill health prevents her from being present to give you some of the interesting experiences of her life in the Shâradâ Sadana and with the people.

The Executive Committee feel confident that you will appreciate as they do the manner in which Miss Hamlin stood by Ramabai during the religious excitement in Bombay, when the latter seemed to stand alone in the midst of her own people, and her efforts to interest the men of Poona in the school, with all the good she accomplished during her mission there.

The Committee feel equally confident that she will have your sympathy in her enforced inactivity, and your earnest wishes for ultimate recovery.

To-day she sends to you her greetings, with the hope that

you "will not grow weary in well-doing, and will be hopeful and courageous in regard to the work in India."

In the latter part of May a cablegram was received from Dr. Bhandarkar, Chairman of Advisory Board, and Ramabai, stating that a suitable house with grounds, recommended by the engineer and approved by their Board, could be obtained for \$12,000. It should be stated that, owing to extreme carelessness at the Western Union Telegraph Office, the sum was read \$20,000. This mistake caused the expense of two extra cablegrams, the danger of losing the property through delay in action, and much trouble for the Trustees and Executive Committee. Although a statement of this has been made to the company, as it requested, no redress has been obtained. As soon as the mistake was discovered, the Trustees authorized the sending of \$12,000 at once to Ramabai. This was warmly seconded by Miss Hamlin, who was well acquainted with the locality, and had perfect confidence in all the parties interested.

One Bombay and three Poona gentlemen, named by Miss Hamlin, were appointed to act with Ramabai in the matter. The following is, in substance, Ramabai's interesting account of the transaction: Thinking that a reduction of price might be obtained by a personal interview with the owner, who was then in the hills of Matharan for his health, she asked the gentlemen of the Committee to visit him. But they declined, and Ramabai was left to act alone. Accordingly, she took the midnight train, reached the foot of the mountain at five o'clock in the morning, hired a horse, and rode sixteen miles up the famous hills of Matharan. She found this gentleman, stated to him her business, explained her work, and interested him so much that, after a brief consultation with his wife, he reduced the price to 27,500 rupees, or \$9,000. Ramabai then descended the mountain under a scorching sun, and, though weary and sore from her long ride, took the afternoon train to Bombay for the purchase money awaiting her there, and which the next day was deposited in a bank in the name of the Shâradâ Sadana. And yet, after she had

accomplished all this, the members of the Provisional or Managing Board, listening to the opinion of a young engineer, a stranger in the place, decided that the price was too high, and desired Ramabai to appeal again to the owner for a further reduction. Yielding to their request, she put aside her own good judgment in the matter, and sent the owner a letter which they had drafted, and which, of course, proved unsuccessful. Then several of the gentlemen who advised the purchase at 30,000 rupees, and one even at 35,000 rupees, and the sending of the cablegram to secure the money, and whose *original* recommendations are here to-day, declined to have anything further to do in the matter; and again Ramabai was left alone. But the Hon. Mr. Ranade, a member of the original Advisory Board, came to her assistance, advised her not to fear taking the final steps in the purchase, assuring her that her name was as good as five in signing the papers, which she did sign in the name of the Association. Mr. Ranade examined and approved the bargain papers, drafted the title-deed, and kindly offered to be answerable to the Association, should she be blamed for her action. The title-deed is written on stamped paper in Mahratta, like those of the government and municipality; and the property is now entered and registered on the government books in the name of the Association and its four principal officers.

The Chairman of the Board of Trustees and one of its members, who have read Ramabai's correspondence concerning this transaction, think it evidences in a remarkable degree strong business talents and executive ability, good sense and judgment, that her position is a difficult one, needing all the wisdom possible to maintain herself in it, but that she knows her own people and how to deal wisely with them.

Before the purchase of the building was completed, Ramabai wrote that repairs and additions were necessary to the amount of several thousands of dollars,—a high wall or fence around the compound, the improvement of the wells,

etc., and an additional bungalow to separate visitors, and newly arrived girls desiring admission from the members of the school. The Executive Committee, with the approval of the Trustees, voted her \$14,000 for the purchase, repairs, and additions. A rough estimate of the work accomplished, and that remaining to be done, brings the expense within the sum allowed, although the loss by exchange reduced the amount received to \$13,600. In this estimate there are no lawyers' fees, because of the generous kindness of Mr. Chandavarka, a distinguished lawyer of Bombay, a member of the former Bombay Board, and a personal friend of Ramabai.

The Managing Board alluded to above, and also in the Report of 1891, is no longer in existence. This Board was formed upon the removal of the school to Poona, for the purpose of assisting as well as advising Ramabai. The members seemed to enter into the work with great interest, and with a desire to relieve Ramabai of its details. They drafted a set of rules for their own guidance, subject to the approval or amendments of the Board here. Unfortunately, these rules did not reach the Executive Committee until seven months after they were framed, thereby causing grave misunderstandings.

With but few exceptions the rules were approved, but they were important exceptions. This Board, according to their rules, was to have "full control of the admission of pupils," of "the appointment of teachers and all other except menial servants," and of "the management of funds remitted to Pundita Ramabai by the American Association, and received from other sources for the support of the Institute except Pundita Ramabai's salary." She was made a member of this Board, with but one vote out of twelve, in matters that might be of vital importance to her and her school.

The amendments made by the Trustees and Executive Committee were to the effect that all expenditures of money and contracts made, and the selection of teachers, must have the approval of Ramabai, the founder and the head of the school. The Board declined to accept the amendments,

although it was stated that they were made from no lack of confidence in them, but for the greater protection of Ramabai, themselves, and the Association. It was also explained why neither the Executive Committee nor Ramabai could delegate to others the control of funds which the American people had intrusted to their hands and judgment.

The Indian Board is now the same Advisory Board as appointed by the Association in the beginning. Individual members of the other Board remain faithful and helpful to Ramabai, as she testifies in her report.

During the summer and early fall Ramabai's life was far from being happy and restful. The excitement over the religious character of her school in Bombay the year previous found its parallel in Poona. She was accused of disloyalty to her own people, of obtaining money from the American people under false pretences, of defiantly interfering with the religious customs of her pupils, and of dismissing the Managing Board that she might openly teach Christianity in her school. So high and warm grew the controversy that some of the papers grew indecent in their attacks upon her. One editor, however, had the manliness to retract his defamatory charges, to admit there was no justification for them, to express his regrets, and promised not to offend in like manner again. Still, the controversy waxed hotter and hotter, and the charges became more cruel until Ramabai appealed to the Association for her vindication. At the same time a Poona gentleman, who seemed desirous of learning the truth and of doing justice to Ramabai, wrote to the President of the Association concerning some of the charges. He was told that it was quite possible for Ramabai to go up and down through this country and collect money for the widows' school from Christians of every name, with the distinct understanding on their part that it was to be a secular school. He spoke of the principles upon which our public and private schools are founded, and of the perfect understanding that Ramabai's school was to be conducted on the same broad principles. He said that her

appeal was made to "all sorts and conditions" of men, and women also, and nobody ever thought to ask their preferences in religious doctrines. He asked the gentleman to say to others that Ramabai herself quickened the interest which established the school, that without her there would have been no fund and no school, and that the Association had always entire confidence in her.

The President ended his letter with these words: "You will permit me to say, however, that, if the school is not to be a Christian school, neither is it to be a Mussulman school, a Parsee school, a Buddhist school, or a school of any other religion." The Executive Committee wrote also, and to the same effect. But, before these letters could reach India, the troubles from within and without had so worn upon Ramabai that she grew faint-hearted and fearful of the fate of her school. In her unselfish love for her unfortunate sisters, and her fear that the efforts for their redemption might come to naught, she was willing to give up this, her "child of many prayers." She urged that the Board of Management be retained by giving into their hands the control of the school and the funds, and that one be placed at the head of the school who was wiser than herself, and who would be more acceptable to her countrymen. But the Executive Committee knew better their own duties and responsibilities, and the action that would meet with your approval. With one mind and one voice they answered "No" to all these suggestions. The Trustees did the same, and authorized the following cablegram to be sent to Ramabai: "Be firm. The Association supports you. Funds and letters coming."

Her own words will best tell the effect produced by this message. She writes: "I was in Bombay when the cablegram came here; and, when I arrived two days later, it was handed me with congratulations and loving words. How very kind of you to think of sending it at that particular time! Those were the darkest days in the stormy time. I was in great doubt, and was at a loss to know what would be the best course to follow. When this cablegram came, I was

sure you would support me, and I went on in the usual way. It has pleased the loving heavenly Father to put such kindness into your hearts. I thank him and you most heartily for the boundless love shown toward my children and my unworthy self." Since the cablegram and letters have been received, the tone of Ramabai's letters has entirely changed. She is now buoyant, hopeful, successful.

In contrast to this dark picture there are many bright ones, like the following, in her life with her children. During a short vacation in November she took the pupils who did not go to their homes to a beautiful summer resort, where for several days they occupied the house of Mr. Modak, one of the old Bombay Board, and Ramabai's friend. The children wandered through the woods, played by the side of the beautiful brooks, ran on the plateau of the great mountain, and listened with delight to the echo of their own voices, as freely and as happily as would our own little children. So delighted were they in their joyful freedom that they reluctantly returned to celebrate one of the great festivals, the Divali. And Ramabai, in hearing their ringing laughter and seeing the joyful faces, forgot all the trials and pain of the past year, and became a child with her children.

Her intercourse with and influence over her pupils in the home and school are those of a wise companion, a tender mother, and Christ-loving woman. She sees the selfish, suspicious, and fretful natures of the girls gradually changing. She sees the hearts that had grown hard or indifferent through constant and enforced self-denial now expanding and glowing as they learn the sweetness of *voluntary* self-sacrifice.

During the recent famine in the Madras Presidency Ramabai told its story to her pupils, contrasted their happy, well-fed condition with that of their brothers and sisters suffering and dying from hunger, and asked if they would not like to help the sufferers. There was a glad response from every child in the school. Those who were fortunate in having a little money, though but five or ten pice, gave them cheer-

fully. One poor young widow, just appointed to serve the girls at their meals for three rupees per month, begged that her first month's pay be taken for the famine relief fund.

A young Brahmin widow, formerly so proud that she would not even touch her shoes lest her sacred fingers become polluted thereby, asked to be allowed to sweep the school yard the next month, that she might earn three rupees for the sufferers. Even the little ones, who had neither money nor strength for earning it, begged to be allowed to do something to enable them to contribute their "mites" — the widows' mites, indeed — to the fund.

Ramabai believes that the kindergarten teaching is doing much towards leading her pupils into unselfish and helpful ways. Her desire for a successful kindergarten class is at last gratified. An account of this will be found in her own letter to the Association; and Miss Granger reports the generous donation of "gifts" from the Philadelphia circles. Five dollars for the same purpose received from Mr. Pusey, of Kennett, Pa., are here acknowledged. As the classes increase, more materials will be needed, the expense of which will be met by the contributions of the "Clusters," formed for the purpose by Mrs. George N. Dana. A set of kindergarten books has been received through Mrs. Dana,— the gift of a dying kindergarten teacher.

Here the Committee would gratefully acknowledge the courtesy and kindness of Mr. Swett, of the A. B. C. F. Mission, in giving helpful advice and generous assistance.

The testimony of Miss Steuart of Philadelphia in regard to Ramabai's ability to teach the kindergarten system will gratify those who were a little fearful of her attempting it.

She took lessons of Miss Steuart nearly an entire winter. On account of her deafness the lessons were private, and this enabled the teacher to consider her individual needs.

Miss Steuart found a fresh, vigorous mind, able to grasp readily the general principles and methods, especially quick in seizing the practical part, and in suggesting how the sys-

tem could be adapted to the needs of the child-widows in India. She feels that Ramabai, knowing better than any one else all the conditions there, will be much more successful as a teacher than an American could be.

A pupil has been sent from the Kolhapar State School to be trained by Ramabai as a kindergarten teacher. Miss Litch, the superintendent of the school, writes gratefully of the improvement in Kashibai's manners as well as education, and hopes the State authorities will send other pupils to be trained in like manner.

The following extract from a letter written to an English paper is of interest, giving as it does the impression made by Ramabai and the school upon a visitor. She writes: "For four days we were the fortunate guests of Ramabai in her widows' school at Poona. She is looking just the same sweet, grave woman, with the clear, childlike eyes, that she was when first I knew her. We asked to live in Hindu fashion, as she and her little children live; and so we did as regards food. We were shown into Ramabai's dining-room; and she, with teachers and friends, joined us. It was a large, airy room, without a carpet. The floor was of hard mud, and there was not a single piece of furniture in the room. We squatted down in a row on a long rug. Each person had a flat slab of wood without legs in front of her, which served as a table. On the slab were a large brass platter, and a brass bowl for water, also a little heap of fruit,—pomegranates, oranges, plantains, etc. Ramabai's widows are of various ages. It was lovely to see their affection for her, and her ever gentle, sweet manner with them. They are, indeed, a happy family: their soft, happy laughter, their delight and industry over their lessons, were all very good to see."

This school is no longer an experiment. The records in numbers alone, during its three years' existence, amply justify its existence. March, 1889, it opened with two pupils, one a child-widow. March, 1890, there were twenty-five pupils, ten of whom were widows. March, 1891, twenty-nine pupils, twenty-six of these widows. To-day the school opens

with forty-three pupils, thirty of whom are widows, and in a home they can truly call their own. Is not this an unlooked-for and marvellous success in the midst of trying misunderstandings and bitter opposition? It should encourage the people to give freely, often, and promptly, that there may be no lack of funds as the school increases in numbers.

Here the Executive Committee would call your attention to the Treasurer's report, which states that \$12,000 was sent to India for the purchase of a building. The Building Fund was not sufficient to meet this emergency; and \$3,000, or more, was drawn from the general fund. Another \$2,000 must be added to complete the \$14,000 required and promised. Last year only \$227.61 was added to the Building Fund, and that by circles. Contributions from circles and individuals are earnestly solicited to liquidate this indebtedness to the General Fund.

The Committee would also call the attention of the circles to the necessity of sending their annual subscriptions *promptly* to the Treasurer. It will not only facilitate his work, but will prevent their omission from his report, as several have necessarily been omitted this year.

These are the Virginia Association, contributing \$200; Sioux City, \$100; Baltimore, \$100; Smith College, \$98.25; Second Germantown Circle, \$29.29. And just now comes the cheering news from San José that they have in their treasury \$250, which will soon be forwarded as an annual subscription. These amounts will increase the coming year's receipts, but their place is in the Treasurer's report for 1891.

To this record of difficulties overcome and hopes fulfilled the sad word of regret must be added. By the death of Professor Charles S. Shackford, Ramabai has lost a warm friend and advocate, you of the Association an associate of strong intellect and broad sympathies, the Trustees and Executive Committee a faithful member and wise counsellor. At a recent meeting of the Trustees their Secretary was requested to put on record a deep sense of loss and regret.

In closing this report, the Executive Committee ask to add

a word for themselves. By the business details presented, you can readily see how difficult and delicate are the questions sometimes brought to them for consideration and decision. In dealing with these questions, they have endeavored to act discreetly and justly, to be faithful to the trust you have confided to them, to be watchful of Ramabai's rights and interests, and to rightly appreciate the motives and actions of her brothers in India,—grateful with her for all the helpfulness and kindness shown to her. And the Committee trust that their course will meet with your entire approval.

Respectfully,

JUDITH W. ANDREWS, *Chairman.*

PUNDITA RAMABAI'S REPORT.

TO THE PRESIDENT AND OFFICERS OF THE RAMABAI ASSOCIATION :

Esteemed Friends,—We, the teachers and pupils of the Shâradâ Sadana, send hearty greetings, with our gratitude and sisterly love, to you, at the beginning of the fourth year of our existence. We gratefully and heartily thank our heavenly Father, and you our friends, for the generous help and encouragement we have received from you.

This year has been full of blessings to us. Not a single day has dawned upon us without bringing some new blessing, some fresh token of God's love to us. The more we think of his kindness, the more we feel how little we deserve it, and how very unworthy we have been of it, and how very forbearing and good the dear Father has been to us all this time. The past year has not been without its trials, but they have all turned into blessings; and thus we have been enabled to realize, in a measure, the eternal truth that "no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby."

We began our last year by asking the blessing of God on our work, and by celebrating the birthday of our little school. You may remember that we had twenty-six widows, three deserted wives, four married girls, and seven unmarried girls in our school at this time last year. Now we have thirty young widows, three deserted wives, three married girls, and seven unmarried girls studying in the Shâradâ Sadana. Of the forty-three girls, thirty-eight are boarders;

and five who live in their own houses attend the school daily. The number of non-widow girls is steadily diminishing, and that of widows increasing. I have not sent a tabulated report this year; for most of the girls are those whose names, castes, ages, etc., were reported last year. Four widows and five non-widows who attended this school last year have left it for different reasons. One young widow, Krishnabai, left us just after the celebration of our last anniversary. She is, since then, happily married, and has settled into a home of her own, where she rules, the sole mistress of her household and of her loving husband's heart. We are very happy in her happiness, and wish that many of our young child-widows may have their sufferings ended in this or some other better way. The rest of the number who went away from our school left because they were taken away from us by their parents or guardians, who were afraid of the Hindu public, who talk against our school, and are very much opposed to the education and consequent independence of widows and women in general. You know very well that our school has been unpopular with the orthodox Hindus from the beginning, and is so now; and then we are met with fresh outbreaks of popular "indignation," and the Shâradâ Sadana is stormed and attacked on all sides. It is very natural for some of the girls to fear public criticism and leave our school.

The cause of the last great storm was a sad and strange one. It so happened that a woman whom we had appointed to do the matron's work, and whom we thought to be our friend, and one who took an interest in this movement, proved to be our deadly foe. Her mischievous work was begun by tyrannizing and exercising a bad influence over the girls. For this she was promptly removed from the institution. When going away, she took a young widow with her, who also was a relative of hers. She then went into the town and identified herself with the great army of our opponents. She manufactured many false stories, and spread them through the town, and caused many people to doubt

and turn against us. A terrible storm surged around us for a time, and we had to try hard to keep our ground. Although we are living in our own country and among our own people, we are continually made to feel that we are among a strange and hostile people in a strange land. We are utterly defenceless and almost friendless in this beloved land of ours. But our very weakness is a strong appeal to God, and we feel that he is on our side. We hear him say, "My grace is sufficient for thee," and realize that "he giveth power to the faint." We have trusted in him, and we know that he is able to protect and save his own. You will see by the steady increase of our numbers that our school has not suffered any loss, though our enemies have tried their best to pull it down. There are times when we see nothing but darkness thick enough to be felt on all sides; but we are soon made to see the silvery lining of the clouds that surround us. Our enemies are watching us quietly now, but God only knows whether their present silence is a calm before a great storm or not.

This year has seen us happy possessors of a home of our own. This great event in our short history is second to none except the establishment of the Shâradâ Sadana. Your great kindness and unparalleled generosity has made it possible for us to get a place where we can lay our heads; and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for giving a house to our school. The Shâradâ Sadana, which only three years ago was looked upon as nothing but a castle built in the air by crack-brains, may now be counted among many living realities resting upon a very good foundation. All of us are very happy over it, and look forward with great pleasure to the day when our school will be taken into the new house after the necessary additions and repairs, etc., are finished.

We hope (D. V.) to celebrate the fourth birthday of our school in the new house. I have given all particulars concerning the newly bought house in my report to the Executive Committee, so need not report them here. The house, as it

stands now, is good, and has about two and three-fourths acres of ground. It consists of two separate bungalows, one to be used as the sleeping apartment for the girls, and the other as the school, besides the spacious out-houses, cook-rooms, dining-rooms, etc. But it has no accommodation for the resident teachers and for new girls who come to us, desiring admission to the school. It is not safe to admit such girls into the school at once. They must be lodged separately for a time, and their character, etc., tested thoroughly before they be allowed to mix with the older pupils. It is, therefore, very necessary to build another small bungalow on the grounds in front of the already existing house. We need to have a fencing wall around our compound or open ground, and another dormitory for the pupils, besides a dining-room and cook-room for the resident teachers who may not take their meals with the high caste Hindu girls. These new additions and repairs will take some time, but we are doing our best to get them done quickly and cheaply.

The internal work of the school is going on in very much the same way as it was in the last year. The pupils' progress in their studies is very satisfactory. I am glad to say they are advancing in moral training also. Their several natures are becoming more and more unselfish and sweeter than ever, and their manners quite refined. The girls are very anxious to do their part of the work, and take pains to build up their character. They are now beginning to feel that they owe a duty, not to themselves only, but that they owe it also to their God, and mankind in general. They are kept well informed of what is going on in the outer world; and they feel they are no more the isolated individuals they used to be, that even the Hindu widow bears some relation and owes a duty to the world, that there are many good people who take interest in them, and that they also ought to take an interest in others. Last year when a great agitation concerning the "Age of Consent" Bill was exciting the country, and another movement in the interest of stopping the terrible opium traffic was urged among our people, the pupils of the

Shâradâ Sadana were not backward in sending their petitions to the government in favor of the necessary reforms and in aiding the work of progress as far as lay in their power. The true woman, loving, sympathetic, and unselfish, is gradually making her appearance in each one of the girls. They feel for each other, help each other, and are ready to show kindness to any one without regard to caste, color, or creed. We care more for their moral training than for their literary attainments; and we look forward to the day when, by God's help, our girls will go out in the world to scatter seeds of kindness and goodness, and will be the sunbeams of the household wherein they may dwell.

We have added a new department to our school since last October. A kindergarten training class has been started, which is making good progress. Fourteen pupils and two teachers have joined the class. We may now hope to see a real Fröbel kindergarten in connection with the Shâradâ Sadana, in which the pupils who are being trained now will have ample opportunity to practise what they have learned. We did not have many visitors last year. His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore and suite visited our school early in March of 1891. His Highness donated 500 rupees to the school. Mr. Dayaram Gidumal, a judge in the Province of Sind, and a reformed Hindu gentleman, continues to show his kind interest in our work by giving a subscription of 120 rupees annually. Mrs. Somerset, of Cambridge, England, collected and sent 556 rupees as a donation. I owe a debt of gratitude to these generous donors to our school. I gratefully mention the name of Mrs. Emma H. Palmer, M.D. (an old friend of our late lamented friend, Dr. Bodley) among our donors. Mrs. Palmer has worked hard, and is still working, to get some funds to build up a "Bodley Memorial Library" in our school. The money collected by Mrs. Palmer has already amounted to over 450 rupees. And you have kindly allowed me to add the money sent by Mrs. Somerset to this Bodley Memorial Library Fund. So we may by and by hope to erect a good and lasting monu-

ment on our school grounds, sacred to the memory of our valued friend, Dr. Bodley. I am very glad of it, and am very grateful to those who are helping us in this direction. I must also mention the name of Mr. Harishchandra Vithal, a gentleman of very limited means, who has given a donation of 10 rupees to the Shâradâ Sadana. It was very kind of him to do so, and he has my thanks for his kindness.

Chundrabai, a pupil-teacher who used to teach a little in this school last year, has given up her teaching, and is now applying her whole time in studying diligently. Her place has been taken by Mrs. Mathurabai, an educated Hindu Christian lady, who has been teaching in our school from November last. She teaches very nicely, and takes great pains to do her part of the work. Our school has suffered much from outside, but we have been very fortunate in getting such good helpers. The hearty co-operation and womanly sympathy of Malanbai, Miss Kemp, Simhabai, and Mathurabai, have been a great help and comfort to me. These good ladies spare neither time nor trouble, and do their best to make the school a success. Their good example and kind and judicious treatment of the girls have done much to keep peace and order in the school. I cannot thank them enough for the unbounded interest with which they are helping our work on.

I must not forget to mention my grateful appreciation of the sympathetic co-operation and kindly help rendered to us by our good, faithful clerk, Mr. G. B. Gudrè. No one except those who know the internal condition of present Hindu society can realize how difficult it is to find a really good and faithful man to work with and in the interests of women. We could have easily found a better clerk, but could not have found a better man than Mr. Gudrè. He has tried his best to do his duty, and has always shown a true brotherly sympathy and kindness toward us.

Many thanks are also due to the members of our Advisory Board of Bombay and Poona. They have always been ready to give me their advice and help whenever I wanted

them. Our good friend, Mr. Chandavarkar has shown great kindness toward us in doing the necessary legal work free of charge, when the building and ground for the school were purchased. The Hon. Mr. M. G. Ranade helped us in drawing the title-deed in correct form. Dr. R. G. Bhandakar, R. B. G. G. Gokhali, R. B. Kanitkar, and other gentlemen have been very prompt in giving their help and advice on many occasions. Rao Saheb C. N. Bhat has kindly audited our accounts, and helped us in many other ways. I take this opportunity to show my appreciation of their kindness to me, and tender my best thanks to all these gentlemen.

The kind-hearted President and other officers of our Association have been very, very kind to me. They have shown their interest in this school, and been more patient with me than ever. Their words of love and encouragement and their deep sympathy have sustained me while I was being criticised, condemned, and discouraged by my people. I cannot find words expressive enough to thank them for what they have done and are doing for India's poor widowed daughters, and for me. May He who is the Rewarder of all good and kind people bless them abundantly, and be glorified by their good deeds! With kindest regards and all best wishes for the New Year, I remain,

Very faithfully yours,

RAMABAI.

SHARADA SADANA, POONA, Jan. 29, 1892.

LETTER FROM THE PUPILS.

SHARADA SADANA, POONA, Jan. 29, 1892.

Our dear Friends in America,— We are very glad to tell you that many new girls have come since we last wrote.

There is a young widow of about nineteen years old, who was ill-treated by her mother-in-law. Her neighbors, though they were against our school, advised her to go to our school, where, they said, she would be properly taken care of. Her husband died about six months ago, and she has a dear little baby, about eight months old. Being the only baby in this house, everybody is too fond of her.

There are forty-one girls in the school. Thirty of them are widows. There are five Marathi standards, and three English. We have four lady teachers, who take much pains for us and love us. Panditabai has a Sanskrit class and a kindergarten class. In the latter there are fifteen girls. Botany and anatomy are also taught in this class. The girls enjoy these lessons very much.

One day Ramabai had a goat skinned, and brought it whole to explain to the girls the different parts of the body, such as lungs, liver, etc. Then at another time we were taken to see the stars through a telescope. We saw the moon and the planet Jupiter and its rings quite distinctly. We had never seen a telescope before, and therefore we were very much astonished. The moon looked so big.

In the Divali holidays Ramabai took the girls who did not go to their homes to Lonowlee, a village near Poona. The woods there are very lovely. Then we went to see a valley where we heard the echo. Every word that we said was

repeated again. In the Christmas holidays none of the girls went home. We enjoyed these holidays very much. Ramabai gave each one of us a sadi and a choli (a jacket), and sweetmeats and fruits.

Panditabai loves us as a mother would love her children, and therefore we are never homesick. We are all very happy here because everybody is so kind to us. We think that there is a great change in us than before, and we all try to leave off our old bad habits, and try to improve ourselves.

Our new house is not ready as yet. Almost all of us, and especially Panditabai, is very anxious to go there. Our present house is not large enough for so many of us, and therefore we have to put up with many inconveniences. You and the Pandita are the cause of all this happiness. There are many of our countrymen who are very rich, but they never thought of establishing such an institution for widows. But God has seen our sufferings, and created in your hearts the sympathy for the unprotected widows of our land.

Our countrymen ought to be ashamed of themselves when they see the strangers helping us. We do not know how to express our gratitude to you. We will never be able to repay your kindness; but God will reward you for all this, and will prosper you and your country. How we all wish to be like our dear Panditabai, who is of so much use to our countrywomen!

Each girl had written a separate letter to you in Marathi, expressing her deep gratitude to you all. But it would have been a great trouble to you to read all those letters. So we thought of sending a long letter from us all, as all those letters contained the same thing. A young widow of nine years old says, had it not been for Ramabai, she would never have seen these happy days.

Another little girl says she ought to thank God first because he made you such good people to help us. We are very sorry that all of us cannot write our letters in English.

Ramabai had an attack of influenza about a month ago. She is much better now, but is very weak. We feel so sorry

to see her working so hard after this illness. She requires rest and a change of air, but she will not go anywhere when the work of the new school building is going on. The rest of us are well. Our united love to you all.

We remain yours gratefully,

CHANDRABAI.	SIAHBAL.	TAIBAI.
NURMADABAI.	SONABAI.	SUBDRABAI.
PREMABAI.	RAMABAI.	DUARKABAI.
RUNGUBAI.	KASHIBAI.	SUNDRABAI.
KRUPABAI.	LUXMIBAI.	BHAGUBAI.
PARVATIBAI.	MATHURABAI.	SHANTABAI.
GIRGABAI.	VITHABAI.	LUXMIBAI.
RAKHMABAI.	KASHIRAI.	AND OTHERS.

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT, Rev. E. E.
HALE, D.D.

I SUPPOSE that all the ladies present have followed, to a certain extent, the monthly reports, as published in *Lend a Hand*, and do not need any full detail of the history of the school. We ought to recollect that we stand in a difficult position. We are attacked on this side — much more than you see in the newspapers — as being an unchristian association, because we do not choose to place the school in the hands of any one particular Christian communion, and because Ramabai's own intention and purpose is to make it what we here call a free school,— a secular school. On the other hand, in India we are distinctly attacked because we are a Christian institution, because we attempt to call in child-widows or other persons of whatever religion, with the purpose of inculcating Christianity. Yet it is not the first time in the history of this world when people have found themselves between two fires, nor is it the first time when a new enterprise has been a difficult enterprise. If we had entered on Ramabai's work with the idea that we were to be "carried to the skies on flowery beds of ease," we might as well have left the work in the beginning. But we did not enter upon it with any such notion: we entered upon it with the idea that it was a work of very great difficulty and delicacy.

But it had pleased God to rear up a very remarkable person, with gifts for that work such as no person would have ventured to ask for. It would have seemed like madness had any person six years ago stood up in America and

painted the portrait of a person like Ramabai, and proposed to seek for such a person to undertake this work. Suddenly there appears a medical student in Philadelphia. She proves to be a lady of great intelligence, of remarkable business ability, with the most delicate conscience, consecrated to Christianity in the most devout and eager way. This person proves to have dedicated herself to this work in India, as Luther dedicated himself to the reformation of the Church, so that she will stand out in history as one of the remarkable consecrated persons taking in hand a particular work. This person went up and down through this country, and raised a very large amount of money. She did not take this money herself, though she had an entire right to it. She said, "Not a cent of this money shall pass through my hands, except as I am authorized by a board of competent trustees." And she was so fortunate, with that remarkable magnetism which she had, that she was able to obtain the services of a board of trustees here, who were willing to devote themselves to the business of holding this money and remitting it as she needed it.

Then she goes back to her country. Even then it might have happened that a person, even with all her gifts, might have been absolutely unfit for the purpose of "keeping school," and the whole thing might then have gone to pieces. Instead of which, this "little brown mouse," as somebody called her, develops into an extraordinary person of business, — writes a good business letter, knows how to deal with fools on the one side and knaves on the other, has extraordinary power of knowing what men are, and what women are as well. She meets with every sort of difficulty, — difficulties which we cannot even understand: she handles them all as you would handle a lot of babies in a nursery or of children in a kindergarten. I need not say that of course she runs against obstacles there. Read the dirty press of India, and you would say that here was a little fiend. She does not care much whether she is vilified: she knows that her Saviour, in whom she trusts, was vilified before. She pulls

through, she moves into that house or this house, and at the end of this year we are able to report that we have now that marvellous thing called real estate. We have got our foot down: we have no rents to pay. And, if it is observed that the cash on hand is eleven thousand dollars less than it was a year ago, I hope it may be observed at the same time that we have remitted, for the building which was needed, the amount of twelve thousand dollars or more, which was required for the purchase and for the repairs which are necessary.

I said, and we all said, when she went away, that the strain would begin the next year, and that it would go on until, in the middle of the ten years for which we were pledged, the interest in her would have died away. The strain has, however, been better borne — and this is, I think, to be said to the credit of the great persistency and loyalty of American women — than any man would have supposed it would be borne. You have seen from Miss Granger's report how slight has been the diminution by secretaries forgetting that they were secretaries, by presidents forgetting that they were presidents, and by subscribers forgetting that they had subscribed. On the other hand, there have been new friends raised up in one direction or another. But there is no sort of use in our saying in general, "It is to be hoped that the circles will reanimate themselves." That is not the way it is done. It is said, on the highest authority, "Ask, and it shall be given to you." It was not said on any authority, "Write a letter, and have it put in the post-office with a stamp upon it, and there shall be given to you." There is no authority for expecting an answer to any such appeal. Individual persons who are interested in Ramabai will have to ask other individual persons to take an interest in Ramabai, or this enterprise will decline. There are just as many people in the world as there were when she was here; and, when you and I see that more and more people hear her name, it is certain that this work will succeed.

I was asked within a week why I gave so much personal

attention to this matter. It was contrasted against the claim of the American Indians, in whom I am greatly interested. "They suffer as much as child-widows," I was told, "and it is as necessary that enterprise, money, and time shall be given to them." My reply was that in the United States there were a great many people interested in the Indians who are west of the Mississippi River, and that there are comparatively few people interested in the millions of child-widows of India, who outnumber the Indians of our own country so much. I do not wish in the least to disparage the work which we are trying to do in our own country, but I do wish to call attention to the position of education in India. Here is one school of forty pupils, and this one remarkable woman at the head of it, for a class of women who have been wholly left outside by the superstitions and prejudices of the government of India. I should like to call attention to the fact that one hundred years ago, in the United States of America, there was but one school as large as this for the higher education of women,—the Moravian School in Bethlehem. We are training these forty-three girls till they can write such letters as have been read here to-day. In five or six years you will have eight or ten of those women going out to open schools like this. In five or six years more you will have ten schools in India on this basis, each of them bringing up forty such women. Many of these widows will marry, but some will be teachers again. And so we are making the beginning of the higher education of the women of India in the exact line where the government cannot interfere, and where those women would otherwise be left alone. You are training the very class of women who can be the teachers of the race,—high-class widows, who will carry farther the work which we are engaged in.

I ask you to look into the future. Everything seems encouraging. Certainly, the Christian world is outgrowing that very funny superstition — it cannot be called anything else — to which Dr. Abbott alludes in his letter. As he has said,

the true principle of missions is to encourage spontaneous effort on the part of the people who are upon the spot, who can meet their own difficulties ; not to send to them some "Church of the Second Secession,"— a mere bit of manufactured ecclesiasticism,— but the eternal principles of faith and hope and love. We have in this bungalow, without a name that anybody can speak, one little woman who is alive with faith and hope and love. So long as it please God to keep her in this world, she will succeed, because she is acting on the three eternities, Faith, Hope, and Love, which abide and continue forever.

LETTERS FROM VICE-PRESIDENTS.

233 CLARENDON STREET, BOSTON,
March 9, 1892.

My dear Mrs. Andrews,—I need not say how cordially I am interested in the work of the Ramabai Association. From the time when we received the visit from the most interesting missionary of the good work in India, it has seemed to me that there was nothing which one could see, in these days of abundant missionary effort, that was more attractive and valuable than hers. All that we have heard from it since it was actually at work has seemed to justify our confidence, and I doubt not that the meeting will be full of sympathy, and send new encouragement and strength to the workers in this distant land.

Yours sincerely,

PHILLIPS BROOKS.

CLINTON HALL, ASTOR PLACE, NEW YORK,
February 3, 1892.

MRS. J. W. ANDREWS:

My dear Madam,—I am very sorry that it is impossible for me to be with the Ramabai Association at the annual meeting on March 11. An imperative church engagement makes it impossible for me to be absent from home at that time. I should like, however, to take this occasion to re-affirm my conviction that we should be more wise than we have been in our missionary movements if we were to con-

centrate our Christian force to no inconsiderable extent upon spontaneous and indigenous movements like that of Ramabai. We have far too much confounded Christianity with that particular form which it has taken on in our Anglo-Saxon race. The more fully we are able to recognize the spirit of faith, hope, and love, the spirit that is born of God in the hearts of his children wherever they are, and the more we are able to encourage by our sympathies and our support that spirit, and to answer the aspirations of human hearts by presenting to them the simple gospel of our Lord without our traditional forms and creeds, leaving them to create their own forms as we have created ours, the more efficient and capable I am sure we shall be in fulfilling the mission of the Master.

Yours sincerely,

LYMAN ABBOTT.

BY-LAWS.

ARTICLE I. The members of this Association shall be such persons as shall pledge themselves to the payment of not less than one dollar per year for a period of ten years. The annual payment of one hundred dollars for ten years shall constitute a scholarship. Every member shall be entitled to vote at the annual meeting.

ART. II. The various Ramabai Circles which have been or may be formed throughout the country may become branches of this Association. Any member of such branches, pledging the payment of not less than one dollar per year for ten years, shall be a member of this Association, and shall be entitled to vote at the annual meeting.

ART. III. The officers of this Association shall consist of a President, not less than three Vice-Presidents, a Treasurer, a Recording Secretary, a Corresponding Secretary, a Board of not less than seven Trustees, an Executive Committee consisting of not less than seven persons, and an Advisory Board of three members in India. All said officers shall be elected at the annual meeting, and shall hold their offices until others are elected and qualified in their stead. Any vacancies occurring in any of the offices of this Association may be filled by the Executive Committee.

ART. IV. The Board of Trustees shall manage and control all the property and affairs of the Association.

ART. V. The annual meeting of the Association shall be held in March of each year at such time and place in Boston, Mass., as the President shall appoint.

ART. VI. The Board of Trustees shall meet semi-annually at such time and place as its Chairman shall appoint. The Executive Committee shall meet monthly at such time and place as its Chairman shall appoint. This Committee shall attend to all the business details of the Association, and report to the Board of Trustees as often as such Board shall direct. It shall also make an annual report to the Association. Special meetings of the Board of Trustees or of the Executive Committee may be called by their respective Chairmen, when necessary.

ART. VII. The Advisory Board shall report to the Trustees upon such matters as may seem to them important, and upon such special matters as may be referred to them by the Association or by the Board of Trustees or by the Executive Committee.

ART. VIII. These By-Laws may be amended at the annual meeting of the Association or at any meeting called for the purpose, by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting.





